

CIRM funds \$72 million to translate basic discoveries into new therapies, recruit stem cell leaders to California

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Los Angeles, Calif., October 21, 2010 – The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the state stem cell agency created by proposition 71, today approved funding for 19 awards worth \$67 million in its second round of awards designed to move good ideas out of the lab and into the clinic.

The Early Translation II Awards are the second of what CIRM expects to be a 12 to 18 month award cycle for these translational research grants. The research funded by these awards is considered critical to CIRM's mission of translating basic discoveries into clinical cures. The funded projects are expected to either result in a candidate drug or cell therapy or make significant strides toward such a candidate, which can then be developed for submission to the FDA for clinical trial.

"This second round of Early Translational Awards will strengthen CIRM's portfolio of future therapies," said Alan Trounson, CIRM President. "We are looking for ways to complement our leading edge of stem cell-based treatments for patients and these projects will load our frontline portfolio with promising studies on autism, muscular dystrophy, Canavan disease and liver disease. These projects will enhance the potential medical options available for patients and hopefully in the near future produce cures for such debilitating handicaps and diseases."

The awards went to one for-profit and 11 not-for-profit institutions. The for-profit company will take its award in the form of a loan. Three of the awards include international collaborators in Germany. The portion of the projects carried out by these collaborators will be funded by Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the science ministry in Germany, which will fund up to \$2 million for this round of awards.

The 29-member governing board also voted to approve the second Research Leadership Award, given to aid in recruiting Peter Coffey from the University College London to the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"Recruiting internationally renowned stem cell experts such as Dr. Coffey builds a critical mass of stem cell leadership in California to drive the creation of innovative therapies for patients suffering from chronic disease or injury," said Robert Klein, chair of the CIRM Governing Board. "Bringing world level scientists to California will directly accelerate the ability of California research to reach patients with breakthrough therapies for chronic disease and injury."

This \$4.8 million award over six years will fund Coffey's groundbreaking research maturing embryonic stem cells into retinal pigment epithelial cells to treat macular degeneration and other forms of vision loss such as diabetic retinopathy and retinitis pigmentosa. Coffey is already part of a disease team working toward a therapy for macular degeneration led by Mark Humayun at the University of Southern California.

Early Translational II Awards

Application	PI Name	Institution	Funding
TR2-01749	Arturo Alvarez-Buylla	University of California, San Francisco	\$1,752,058
TR2-01756	Michele Calos	Stanford University	\$2,325,933
TR2-01767	Brian Cummings	University of California, Irvine	\$1,708,549
TR2-01768	Sophie Deng	University of California, Los Angeles	\$1,654,058
TR2-01771	David DiGiusto	City of Hope National Medical Center	\$3,124,130
TR2-01780	Dan Gazit	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	\$1,927,698

TR2-01787	Roslyn (Rivkah) Isseroff	University of California, Davis	\$4,526,900
BMBF Partner	Jose Egana	Technical University of Munich	
TR2-01789	Catriona Jamieson	University of California, San Diego	\$3,341,758
TR2-01791	Noriyuki Kasahara	University of California, Los Angeles	\$3,370,607
TR2-01794	Henry Klassen	University of California, Irvine	\$3,855,277
TR2-01814	Alysson Muotri	University of California, San Diego	\$1,491,471
TR2-01816	Markus Muschen	Children's Hospital of Los Angeles	\$3,607,305
BMBF Partner	Andreas Hochhaus	University of Jena	
TR2-01821	Bruno Peault	University of California, Los Angeles	\$5,391,560
TR2-01829	Peter Schultz	Scripps Research Institute	\$6,792,660
TR2-01832	Yanhong Shi	Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope	\$1,731,750
BMBF Partner	Oliver Bruestle	University of Bonn	
TR2-01841	Leslie Thompson	University of California, Irvine	\$3,799,817
TR2-01844	Michael Venuti	iPierian, Inc.	\$5,665,887
TR2-01856	Xianmin Zeng	Buck Institute for Age Research	\$6,016,624
TR2-01857	Mark Zern	University of California, Davis	\$5,199,767
Total			\$67,283,809

Research Leadership Award

Application	PI Name	Institution	Funding
LA1-02086	Peter Coffey	University of California, Santa Barbara	\$4,880,116

A list of all CIRM-funded institutions and a searchable list of all CIRM awards are available on our website.

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